For the State of Orissa, the estimated flow of funds are :—

	Rs. in Crores
(i) Flow from the State Plan	881·90
(ii) S.C.A. . . .	96·0
(iii) Centrally Sponsored Schemes . . .	208·89

Setting up of nickel extraction plant at Snkinda in Orissa

1668. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's only known commercially workable deposits of nickel ore are located in Sukinda Valley in Cuttack district in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to set up a nickel extraction plant at Sukinda for the proper exploitation of the nickel ore resources available in that area; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c) About 90% of the country's known ore reserves of nickel is found in the Sukinda area of Cuttack Distt., Orissa. The metal content of the ore is as low as 1.05%. In order to investigate the viability of a project based on this deposit, the available data was evaluated with the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency. This brought out that the cost of carrying out further studies would be about Rs. 48.71 crores. In view of the severe constraint on resources and the adverse economics of producing nickel at Sukinda, there did not appear to be sufficient justification for incurring this expenditure. A technical group has been constituted by the Department of Mines in April, 1986 to formulate plans for development of an appropriate technology for extraction of nickel from Sukinda nickel deposits.

SC/ST Status to Tea Garden Labour of Assam

1669. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJH1: Will the Minister of WELFARE be plersed to state whether Government have under consideration a proposal to include tea garden labourers in Assam in the list of Scheduled Tribes as has been done in the case of such labourers in West Bengal and Tripura ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO) : The proposal to include tea garden labourers in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Assam is being considered along with sinrlar other proposals in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Further, amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

Amendment of Press and Registration of Books Act

1670. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend Sections 5 and 6 of the Press and Registration of Books Act; and

(b) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Bill to amend certain Sections of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 including its